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by others stronger from a scientific point of view, and equally suitable for the practical needs of their own time."

I. W. HOWERTH.

The Income Tax in the Commonwealths of the United States.

By DELOS O. KINSMAN. [Publications of the American Economic Association, Third Series, Vol. IV, No. 4.] New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903. 8vo, pp. vi + 128.

A USEFUL compilation of the facts in regard to the history of the income tax in the commonwealths of the United States, done with apparent care and for the most part with reference to original sources.

On the basis of these facts the author concludes "that the state income tax has been a failure, due to the failure of administration, which in turn may be attributed to four causes—the method of self-assessment, the indifference of state officials, the persistent effort of the taxpayers to evade the tax, and the nature of the income."

The author further concludes that the income tax is likely to continue to prove a failure so long as it is necessary to resort to the method of self-assessment.

J. G. THOMPSON.

Introduction to Economics. By HENRY ROGER SEAGER. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1904. 8vo, pp. xxi + 565.

WITH regard to a task as difficult as that which Professor Seager has set himself, to ascribe even moderate success is high praise. It is, however, easy to carry commendation much farther than this; in almost all respects this new manual is all that a book of the sort ought to be—thoroughly modern in doctrine; wide in sympathy; marvelously deft in avoiding offense and in touching lightly on contested points, yet in all cases calling both instructor and pupil to face fairly the point in question; clear, sprightly, and stimulating in style and in manner of presentation. And all the while there is room for the instructor and for his initiative and individuality. No teacher inferior in training or wanting in class-room skill would better attempt this book.

Few reservations need be made in the reviewer's general verdict of praise. Professor Seager's text is obviously not adapted to second-

ary purposes, but it is equally obvious that the author does not regard it as so adapted. In difficulty and exhaustiveness it is distinctly of college and university grade, and should prove sufficient on the further side—the advanced side—for any general and theoretical course, no matter how thorough. There is, however, some doubt as to the hither aspect of it—its appropriateness for students who have had, in preparatory schools, no preliminary acquaintance of any sort with economic subjects. For classes of this character a few weeks' work in some primary manual will very possibly be found desirable, with the probable result of making this most interesting and attractive text yet more alluring and more effective.

His catholic quality of temper and lack of dogmatism render Professor Seager's doctrinal positions of less controlling importance for text-book purposes. While his work is noticeably Austrian in tone and method, yet it is such in a manner which need not offend even the radically conservative. Merely as indicating a general point of view, it may be noted that the marginal-productivity theory of distribution is adopted, with perhaps some degree of vagueness or vacillation as to the relation between distributive shares and competitive costs. But, in fairness, it should, as it seems to the present writer, be added that, even if the productivity theory of distribution does not quite go to the bottom of things, it is nevertheless correct as far as it goes, and goes as far as it is at all practicable to attempt in an introductory text.

H. J. DAVENPORT.